

Claims

1. Dispensing apparatus for items of medication, said apparatus including a container portion having one or more compartments formed therein for the containment of said medication, sealing means for location over said compartments and wherein the sealing means is held in position with respect to said compartments by a retaining portion, said compartment portion and/or retaining portion having engagement means which cooperate to retain the sealing means in position.
2. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the sealing means is in the form of a sheet-like material.
3. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the sealing means is held in place by mutual engagement of the retaining portion and container portion engagement means.
4. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein at least part of the sealing means is substantially transparent to allow a user to view medication contained in the apparatus.
5. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the sealing means is provided with perforation or frangible means at spaced locations to allow a user to access a compartment of the container portion by breaking and/or removing a portion of the sealing means.
6. Apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the provision of the perforations or frangible means, apertures in the retaining portion are provided in alignment with the openings into the compartments in the container portion to allow access to medication in the compartments.

7. Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein access to one of the compartments can be gained independently of access to the other compartments in the container portion.
8. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the engagement means between the retaining portion and the container portion comprise a series of protrusions provided in one or both of the container or body portion at spaced locations and the housing therefor provided in the other of the container or body portion at said spaced locations.
9. Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the fitment of the protrusion into a respective housing is provided in a two-stage manner such that in a first stage, the protrusion can be removed from the housing and in a second condition, removal of the protrusion from the housing is tamper evident.
10. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the sealing means includes information material relating to the medication and/or medication consumption times.
11. Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the information contained on the sealing means, when the sealing means is placed in alignment with the compartments on the container portion, determines the consumption times of the medication held in the said compartments.
12. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the apparatus includes a record card fixed to the apparatus, said record card including details relating to the medication in the compartments of the dispensing apparatus.

13. Apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the records card is attached by locating the same between a container portion and retaining portion.

14 Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the apparatus is modular to allow a dispensing apparatus pack of a required size to be formed by joining together respective container portions side to side via matching location means.

15 Apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the apparatus is formed to provide a sufficient number of compartments to suit the amount of medication which is required to be dispensed to a patient by joining the portions together to provide an increased number of medication containing compartments.

16 Apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the container portion compartments of the formed apparatus are overlaid by a single common sealing means and/or retainer portion.

17 Dispensing apparatus for the selective dispensation of items therefrom, said dispensing apparatus including a container portion having one or more compartments formed therein for the containment of said items which are previously selectively placed therein, sealing means for location over said compartments and wherein the sealing means is held in position with respect to said compartments by a retaining portion, said compartment portion and/or retaining portion having engagement means which cooperate to retain the sealing means in position.

18 Apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the sealing means are held in position without the requirement for adhesive.

19 Dispensing apparatus for medication, said items of medication selectively placed into a series of compartments in a container portion and retained in the same by a sealing means held in position by a retainer portion mechanically engaged with the container portion.

20 Apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the sealing means includes a series of perforated lines defining a series of areas in the sealing means which can be pushed through to open the sealing means, each of said areas located with respect to a compartment of the container so as to allow selective access to be gained to the medication.

21. A method of assembling a dispensing apparatus, said method including selectively locating one or more items of medication into one or more compartments of a container portion, locating sealing means over a compartment and retaining the sealing means in position using a retaining portion, the retaining portion having engagement means which engage with complimentary engagement means provided on the container portion.